

Student Aid Bills Tracked by TSAC  
March 2, 2007

Nontraditional Students

HB 152 Extends eligibility by no longer requiring that students must be an entering freshman. Rather, includes students who have not attended for one year.

Requires tracking credit hours and special GPA for time spent as a non-traditional student.

HB 1013 Reduce “waiting time” for non-traditional students to 12 credit hours and require certain outreach activities for non-traditional students.

HB 1068 Similar to HB 152. Eases initial eligibility requirements.

Requires tracking credit hours and special GPA for time spent as a non-traditional student.

HB 2130 Clarifies that students applying for the HOPE Scholarship for nontraditional students must file the FAFSA.

120 Credit Hour Limitation

HB 161 Simplifies benchmark language by changing “24, 48, 72, 96, 120 credits” to every 24 credits.

Changes 120 and 136 credit hour limitation to refer only to credit hours funded by the scholarship.

HB 162 Simplifies benchmark language by changing “24, 48, 72, 96, 120 credits” to “end of academic year”.

Changes 120 credit duration rule to 5 FTE years.

Removes 5 year ticking clock.

HB 236 Allows more than 120/136 credit hours as long as student doesn’t exceed 4 full-time academic years.

HB 336 Identical to HB 161

HB 338 Nearly identical to HB 162. Only difference is that HB 162 has an additional section which edits existing language concerning the fact that Wilder-Naifeh doesn’t count against HOPE eligibility.

### Award Retention

SB 231 Lowers the retention GPA requirement to 2.25.

### Aspire Eligibility

SB 0025 Changes \$36,000 threshold to \$45,000.

### Use of Reserve

HB 009 Uses a portion of the TELS reserve for K-12 capital projects.

HB 044 Creates a special “lottery capital outlay special account” to fund K-12 capital projects in high-growth rate districts.

### Home Schooling

HB 153 Expands eligible population by changing from 2 years to 1 year, the requirement that student must be home schooled the last 2 years of high school.

HB 154 Allows student who are one course short of graduating from an eligible high school to take that course as a home schooled student.

### Changes in Award Amount

HB 340 Increases HOPE Scholarship from \$3,800 to \$4,000 and Wilder-Naifeh from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

HB 1010 Provides book allowance of \$400/year to HOPE recipients.

SB 1481 Increase HOPE scholarship amount at two-year schools to be the same as the amount at four-year schools, for those students at the two-year school who live on-campus.

### New Programs

HB 199 Creates the HOPE Advanced Degree Scholarship for grad students.

HB 305 Extends existing Math/Science Teacher Loan Forgiveness program to all fields of graduate study.

HB 871 Extends Wilder-Naifeh to students aged 25 or older attending a community college.

- HB 1008 Creates STAR Scholarship program and middle school and high school enrichment programs.
- SB 050 Creates supplemental HOPE award for students preparing to teach in critical shortage fields.
- SB 223 Creates a loan forgiveness program for students in teacher training programs to become math/science teachers.
- SB 253 Creates a combat veteran's scholarship program.
- SB 1255 Creates a loan forgiveness program for medical students who agree to practice medicine in the state. Excludes public colleges of medicine. Appears to be funded with non-lottery revenue.
- SB 1256 Similar to SB 1255 except includes public colleges of medicine.
- SB 1364 Creates 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program and enrichment programs.
- SB 1759 Creates a loan forgiveness program for professionals in critical shortage fields. Creates a Board to determine shortage fields.

#### Relax Academic Requirements

- HB 350 Expands eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship by removing all high school academic requirements for the initial award. Eliminates the HOPE Access Grant program.
- HB 724 Expands eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship by lowering high school academic requirements for the initial award and for GAMS. Eliminates HOPE Access Grant program. Lowers renewal GPA requirement. Lowers GPA requirement for transfer students and non-traditional students.
- SB 1464 Traditional students who fail to qualify for HOPE when graduating from high school may qualify when they earn 72 or 96 college credit hours.

#### Strengthen Academic Requirements

- HB 1059 Requires completion of high school core curriculum in order to be eligible for a HOPE Scholarship.

#### Misc. Provisions

- HB 341 Changes \$36,000 AGI to Pell-eligible EFC.

- HB 426 TSAC provides TELS training to high school counselors, including calculation of high school GPA.
- TSAC provides grants to LEAs to employ staff to perform TELS administrative duties.
- HB 929 Provides GAMS supplement to HOPE Scholarship recipients who earn the Boy Scout Eagle award or Girl Scout Gold award.
- HB 1015 Changes benchmarks from 24-48-72-96-120 to 30-60-90-120
- HB 2283 Authorizes TSAC to conduct more than one lottery scholarship day, and provides that information shall be provided concerning the TSAA program.
- SB 113 Renames HOPE Scholarship to “Cohen HOPE Scholarship.”
- SB 517 Requires campuses to counsel students in danger of losing TELS for academic reasons, and allows students to petition for an extension of 24 credit hours while they try to restore their GPA.
- SB 594 Changes the eligibility requirement for dependent children of military parents, so that the home of record must be Tennessee at the time of TELS application rather than at the time of entry into the military.
- SB 821 Identical to SB 594.
- SB 898 Extends the Math/Science Teacher Loan Forgiveness program to teachers working in private schools (in addition to public schools).

#### THEC Research and Reporting

- HB 446 Requires THEC to conduct research on TELS student diversity.
- SB 424 Requires THEC to conduct research on non-traditional students.
- SB 1478 Requires THEC to report on non-traditional students and receipt of HOPE scholarships.

#### Foster Child Tuition Grant

- SB 073 Clarifies award amount calculation.

#### Foreign Schools

SB 336 Extends eligibility to students graduating from non-regionally-accredited foreign schools.

SB 1559 Identical to SB 336 except SB 1559 allows retroactive awards.

HB 1440 Identical to SB 1559.

#### Omnibus TELS Bill

HB 342 Changes special “Lottery GPA” to institutional GPA.

Changes \$36,000 AGI to Pell-eligible EFC.

Clarifies that high schools provide the high school GPA

Simplifies benchmark language by changing “24, 48, 72, 96, 120 credits” to “end of academic year.”

Removes prohibition of FT student going to PT status.

Increases HOPE Scholarship from \$3,800 to \$4,000 and Wilder-Naifeh from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Clarifies Foster Child Tuition Grant amount calculation.

SB 611 Nearly identical to HB 342, except \$36,000 changed to choice of \$40,000 or Pell-eligible EFC.

#### Non-TELS Bills

HB 447 Changes composition of Committee on Postsecondary Educational Institutions.

HB 1014 Revises pilot after school programs.

HB 1945 Creates the “student assistance program account” and provides that funds deposited to it do not revert at the end of the fiscal year.

HB 1996 Requires TSAC to publish eligibility requirements for the Minority Teaching Fellows Program.

HB 2123 Adds UT and TBR as recipients of THEC’s annual report on scholarship and grant programs.

SB 863 Strengthens consumer information requirements at career schools